AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

one or more call group locations associated with different ones of said one or more servers, each of said one or more servers including call group lists of members for each call group, said each call group having listed members from said one or more call group locations;

an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system;

a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to a group pickup destination to enable a caller station to be picked up from said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations and selected responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and a responding listed group member location; and

a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup station with said caller station~~;~~

~~wherein a call group associated with said call pickup station can have members associated with different ones of said one or more call group locations~~.

2. (original) The system as recited in claim 1 further including an exception handler adapted to handle failures in the group pickup system.

3. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, and wherein a call pickup party may be located on any server within the network.

4. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein a ~~said~~ parked caller may be picked up from any server within the network.

5. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include excessive network congestion.

6. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include a vacant number.

7. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include no route to destination.

8. (original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said user selectable park location is said destination's background task.

9. (currently amended) A method for picking up a call in a group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, each of said one or more servers including call group lists of members for each call group, said each call group having listed members from said one or more call group locations, said method comprising:

invoking the group pickup system;

establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations associated with any of a plurality of said one or more servers located anywhere within the network; and

connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller, said call pickup party being a listed group member connected at another one of said one or more group locations;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 9, further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

11. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on

others of said plurality of servers, said method further including the step of picking up a caller from anywhere within the network.

12. (currently amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

means for maintaining call group lists of members for a plurality of call groups;

means for invoking the group pickup system;

means responsive to said invoking means for establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations associated with any of a plurality of said one or more servers located anywhere within the network; and

means for connecting a listed call pickup party with said parked caller, said listed call pickup party being connected at another one of said one or more group locations;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

13. (original) The system as recited in claim 12 further including means for handling failures in the group pickup system.

14. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 12, wherein one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, said system further including means for picking up a parked caller from anywhere within the network.

15. (currently amended) A system for enabling group pickup in a communications network including a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, each of said servers ~~having more than one server~~ comprising:

group list storage storing lists of members for a plurality of call groups;

a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a listed member station;

a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote listed group member stations associated with different servers within the network which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station, wherein the calling station and selected call pickup station may be associated with different servers and define listed member stations.

16. (currently amended) A system according to claim 15, in which the request unit comprises:

an automatic mode unit that automatically searches for a listed group member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call, and selectively designates an identified listed group member station as said selected call pickup ~~member~~ station; and

a manual mode unit that is initiated by a listed group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station and searches for an alerting listed group member station, wherein said manual mode unit designates an identified said alerting listed group member station as said selected call pickup ~~member~~ station.

17. (currently amended) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a remote search unit to search for a listed remote group member that is alerting or available preferably using a temporary signaling connection.

18. (currently amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein the remote search unit sends a facility request to search all the listed group member stations at a remote location.

19. (currently amended) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a queue/dequeue unit for selecting a group member from a database including listed groups.

20. (currently amended) A system according to claim 15, further comprising means for assessing whether an available/alerting listed group member station fulfills set criteria before final selection thereof.

21. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a release links unit to release any temporary links used in establishing the connection and/or convert them to a bearer service cell.

22. (currently amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network including a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, said method ~~having more than one server~~ comprising:

maintaining call group lists of members for a plurality of call groups;

enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a listed member station anywhere on the network;

making local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote listed group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station, wherein call pickup stations and unanswered stations are associated with listed members of the [[a]] same call group and different servers.

23. (currently amended) A method according to claim 22, further including the step of automatically searching for a listed group member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call.

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 22, further including the step of searching for an alerting group member station triggered by a listed group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station.

25. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 22, further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

26. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 22, further including the step of picking up a call from anywhere within the network.

27. (currently amended) A telecommunications system[[,]] comprising:

a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers;

a plurality of telephone devices associated with said plurality of servers; and

a group pickup system including at least one call group list listing members in a group pickup group comprising a predetermined number of said plurality of telephony devices associated with different ones of said plurality of servers and which allows call pickup of any call to a listed group member by any listed group member station connected to any of said plurality of servers.